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Message Text

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PASS TO USDOC - P & R - O'BRIEN

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OCON, OECD
SUBJECT: TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING JULY 5-6, 1978

REF: A) STATE 168078 B) AGENDA TOU/A(78)2

1. SUMMARY - THE COMMITTEE REVIEWED, AMENDED AND APPROVED THE ANNUAL REPORT ON TOURISM POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL TOURISM IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES DURING 1977 AND THE EARLY MONTHS OF 1978. THE REPORT WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON ONCE APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL UNDER THE WRITTEN PROCEDURE.
IN OTHER ACTIONS THE COMMITTEE EXAMINED A SUMMARY TEXT PREPARED BY THE FRENCH DELEGATION ON STAGGERING OF HOLIDAYS AND AGREED TO AN ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE IN ORDER FOR THIS DELEGATION TO COMPLETE THE INTERNATIONAL PORTION OF THIS REPORT. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE FORWARD FOR PRESS RELEASE ANY AVAILABLE DATA RELATED TO THE FIRST FOUR MONTHS IN 1978 (SEE PARA 3 BELOW) AS WELL AS AVAILABLE INFORMATION AND AMENDMENTS TO THE REPORT'S STATISTICAL ANNEXES (SEE PARA 6) BEFORE JULY 20, 1978. A REPLY TO QUESTIONNAIRE ON STAGGERING OF HOLIDAYS (SEE PARA 7) IS EXPECTED BY JULY 31, 1978.
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END SUMMARY

2. AT OPENING OF THE MEETING US REP REQUESTED ADDITIONS, DELETIONS AND AMENDMENTS AS PER REF A. THESE WERE ACCEPTED BY COMMITTEE AND SECRETARIAT FOR INCLUSION IN FINAL VERSION OF TOURISM COMMITTEE REPORT WHICH WILL BE PUBLISHED SOON.

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3. GENERAL INTRODUCTION TO THE REPORT (DAFF/TOUR/
78.483) ENTITLED "MAIN FEATURES IN 1977 AND EARLY
1978" WILL ALSO BE USED AS PRESS RELEASE (AS REDRAFTED).
SECRETARIAT NEEDS FOR PRESS RELEASE ANY UPDATED FIGURES
COVERING, IF POSSIBLE, MINIMUM OF 4 MONTHS IN 1978 ON:
A) FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS
B) NUMBER NIGHTS SPENT BY FOREIGN TOURISTS
C) INTERNATIONAL TOURIST RECEIPTS
D) INTERNATIONAL TOURIST EXPENDITURES.

4. INTENSE DISCUSSION OF ADMINISTRATIVE AVIATION
POLICY AS SET FORTH IN TMN OF MAY 25 (FIRST FOURTEEN
LINES, TOP LEFT OF P. 2) WILL APPEAR IN WRITTEN
MINUTES BUT NOT IN PRESS RELEASE. US POLICY RECEIVED
STRONG SUPPORT FROM UK AND A JOINT UK/USA STATEMENT
APPEARS IN CHAPTER IV.

5. REPORT ON TOURISM POLICY AND INTERNATIONAL
TOURISM IN OECD MEMBER COUNTRIES, 1978 (TOU(78)3).
A. CHAPTER I - GENERAL REPORT AND ISSUES WERE
DISCUSSED AT LENGTH AND FORMAL AMENDMENTS WILL BE
INCORPORATED IN FINAL VERSION.
B. CHATER II - INTERNATIONAL TOURIST FLOWS IN MEMBER
COUNTRIES WAS ACCEPTED WITH MINOR AMENDMENTS.
C. CHAPTER III - AN ANALYSIS OF THE ECONOMIC
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IMPORTANCE OF INTERNATIONAL TOURISM. CLARIFICATION OF
ITALIAN FIGURES REVEALED THAT IN TABLE T-III-5
HEAVY SHOPPING EXPENDITURES OWING TO FAVOURABLE EXCHANGE
RATE HAVE INFLATED RECEIPT FIGURES.
D. CHAPTER IV - TRANSPORT - FOLLOWING DEBATE US REPS

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AGREED THAT IN ORDER TO AVOID SWELLING THIS PART TO UNMANAGEABLE PROPORTIONS BY HAVING TO INCLUDE EACH MEMBER'S AVIATION POLICY, UK AND USA AGREED TO HAVE CHANGES INSERTED BETWEEN PARAS 18 AND 19 ON PAGE 8. FOLLOWING IS JOINT UK/USA STATEMENT: "THE INTRODUCTION OF CHEAPER AND MORE COMPLICATED FARES ACROSS THE ATLANTIC BY THE SCHEDULED AIRLINES IS ONE OF THE THINGS THAT HAS LED TO A SHIFT IN DEMAND FROM SUPPLEMENTAL TO SCHECULED AIRLINES, ESPECIALLY WHERE INSTANT FARES ON A NON-RESERVATION BASIS ARE AVAILABLE. ANOTHER FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEMAND SHIFT IS THE REDUCTION IN THE NUMBER OF SUPPLEMENTAL CARRIERS IN THE MARKET. IN FUTURE, SCHEDULED AND NON-SCHEDULED TRAFFIC WILL NEED TO BE ABLE TO COMPETE ON AN EQUAL BASIS, IF POTENTIAL TRAVELERS BY AIR ARE TO BE OFFERED AS WIDE A SELECTION AS POSSIBLE. OTHERWISE, CONSUMER'S CHOICE WILL BE LIMITED IN THE YEARS AHEAD, WHICH MAY IEAD TO LESS COMPETITIVE FARES BEING OFFERED." FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THIS TOPIC IS SCHEDULED FOR NEXT TOURISM COMMITTEE MEETING IN FEBRUARY 1979. (NOTE: SECRETARIAT OBTAINED STATISTICS IN TABLE T.IV.5, PAGE 11, FROM DOT, US INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL STATISTICS, AND THE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS CENTER, CAMBRIDGE, MASS.)

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E. CHAPTER V - ACCOMMODATION. NO U.S. FIGURES APPEARED ANYWHERE IN THIS PART, PROBABLY BECAUSE OF INCOMPATIBILITY OF U.S. FIGURES WITH OTHER MEMBER COUNTRIES. INDEED THERE IS NO AGREEMENT ON WHETHER BED CAPACITY OR ROOM CAPACITY IS INVOLVED IN CAPACITY TABLE, PAGE 3, AND WHETHER BED OCCUPANCY OR ROOM OCCUPANCY IS INVOLVED IN TABLE T.V.2, PAGE 5. REPORTING REGISTERED OR UNREGISTERED NIGHTS IS A FURTHER PROBLEM. UP FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

6. CHAPTER VI - STATISTICAL ANNEXES. ACTION REQUESTED: THE ANNEXES TO TOU(78)3 OECD URGENTLY NEED FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
A. PAGE 9 - LOWER TABLE ON AVERAGE LENGTH OF STAY IN

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COUNTRY (USA); US ENTRIES IN COLUMNS 3, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10,
11 & 12 ALSO VERIFICATION OF FOOTNOTE IN LOWER CASE
LETTER "R".
B. PAGE 13 - ARRIVALS BY SEA AND AIR 1976 AND 1977 AND
VERIFICATION OF FOOTNOTE 2.
C. PAGE 15 - TOP TABLE, FIGURES FOR 1977 FOR USA FOR
DEPARTURES, OVERSEAS DEPARTURES, AND CRUISES.
D. PAGE 15 - BOTTOM TABLE, FIGURE FOR 1977 NIGHTS SPENT
BY US TOURISTS IN EUROPE.
E. PAGE 16 - PLEASE VERIFY RATES LOWER CASE G AND H AND
ALSO FILL IN BLANK AT END OF PENULTIMATE LINE PARA H.
F. PAGE 17 - FIRST COLUMN - CHANGE FOOTNOTES TO READ
G AND H AND DELETE FOOTNOTE LETTER REFERENCE F.
G. PAGE 27 - FORECAST NEEDED FOR 1978 FOR INVESTMENT
IN HOTEL INDUSTRY.
(FYI, GAVE THEM THE MEDIUM BLUE COVERED BOOK OF SPRING
1978. END FYI)
H. PAGE 29 - HOTEL OCCUPANCY FIGURES IN PERCENT NEEDED
FOR 1977, IF AVAILABLE.
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I. PAGE 31 - PERCENT HOTEL OCCUPANCY FOR 1976 AND 1977
EX SURVEY OF CURRENT BUSINESS.
J. LAST PAGE - 34 - HOTEL PRICES NEEDED FOR FIRST THREE
COLUMNS AND LAST TWO, ALSO RESTAURANT PRICES
77/78.

7. STAGGERING OF HOLIDAYS. (DAF/TOU/78.481) - 2 HOUR
DEBATE WAS ALSO STAGGERING. US NEEDS TO AMEND GRID
BEFORE JULY 31, IF POSSIBLE. WE COULD NOT ASCERTAIN
WHERE FRENCH DELEGATE OBTAINED DATA, BUT FEEL IT NEEDS
CAREFUL CHECKING AND COMPLETION. ALSO NEED WHATEVER
ANSWER CAN BE PROVIDED TO ADDITIONAL QUESTIONNAIRE
(DAFF/TOU/78.482).

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8. TOURISM FOR RETIRED PERSONS. STRONG JUSTIFICATION OF SOCIAL TOURISM INDICATES INFORMATION REQUESTED BY THE SECRETARIAT CAN BE PROVIDED (SEE TOU/M(78)1, DATED FEBRUARY 24).
9. TOURISM AND ENVIRONMENT. DISCUSSION VERY POORLY LED AND INCONCLUSIVE.
10. INVESTMENT IN TOURISM SECTOR. NO TIME REMAINED TO DISCUSS THIS ISSUE.

11. FUTURE WORK. - AS LIST OF USA MEMBERS ON STATISTICAL WORKING GROUP IS OUT OF DATE, AND AS THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WORK TO DO, PLEASE WRITE OECD, US DELEGATION FOR TRANSMITTAL TO SECRETARIAT OUR CHOSEN LIST OF STATISTICAL SPECIALISTS ELIGIBLE AND DESIGNATED TO ATTEND OECD MEETINGS.

12. OTHER BUSINESS. - SPAIN'S REPORT ON BALANCE OF PAYMENTS STUDY WAS POSTPONED TO FEBRUARY 1979. INVITATION TO NORDIC SEMINAR WILL BE FORWARDED VIA E ICO, AMEMBASSY, PARIS. (NOTE: IF FURTHER INFORMATION IS REQUIRED, A FULL SET OF ANNOTATED DOCUMENTS WAS KEPT BY DEARING AND HE WILL ENLARGE UPON REQUEST. SALZMAN

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